

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 22 May 2024

1) Question from David Ingham to Councillor S Spencer (to be answered by Councillor A Dale, Cabinet Member for Education)

“Given the response to the question asked by Councillor Dixon regarding senior management positions within the Pay Report at Full Council on 27-03-24, the subsequent Derbyshire Times article regarding paying £565,000 for two consultants for “strategic” help on children, schools and learning has obviously drawn my attention. The companies involved being THJH Limited and Populate Consulting Ltd. Apparently “The costs are within the council budgets”.

I’m unclear how this Council has ended up paying somebody more than their own Head of Paid of Service, indeed more than the majority of any Council Chief Executive within the country and consider that’s right just because it’s within budget – one reliant though on delivered savings and reserve draw down.

Given these procurements, as per Financial Regulations, haven’t been included within the Childrens Services Department Service Plan, precisely why are these contracts operating and furthermore receiving the level of payment, especially Populate?”

2) Question from Rebecca Guy to Councillor C Cupit, Cabinet Member for Highways Assets and Transport

“Re: on-going closure of Chinley Footpath No.1 High Peak - this footpath, previously in constant use, has been closed over 3 years. In view of the following:

1. The "landslip" is very minor and had the landowner not contacted the Council, users would have merely moved in a couple of metres for approximately 15 metres, as is usual when PROW are flooded in wet weather. This would have no material impact on the landowner;
2. The landowner is responsible for the maintenance of riverbanks on his property;
3. For 3 years the Council have been considering a range of costly and intrusive repairs which have each been abandoned due to objections from either the Environment Agency or the landowner; and
4. The Council has a statutory duty to keep open PROW.

when can we expect the Council to enforce a minor re-route, as in its power, and reopen this PROW?